

Accident Prevention Alert!

NEAR MISS TRUCK ACCIDENT

On Tuesday, June 25, 2013, a 50-year-old coal truck driver with 30 years of experience was seriously injured in an accident on mine property. The victim was descending an active haul road when he lost control of his truck. The driver passed two axle berms as he descended. A parked coal truck blocked access to the third axle berm, located at the bottom of the hill. The runaway truck side-swiped the parked truck as the driver attempted to pass. The runaway truck continued approximately 200 feet on level ground, went over an embankment, and came to rest on its side in a creek. The accident investigation revealed that there were numerous deficiencies with the truck's brakes. The driver was wearing his seat belt.



Best Practices

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Know the truck's capabilities, operating ranges and load limits.
- Always select the proper gear and downshift in advance of descending a grade.
- Conduct thorough pre-operational examinations.
- Maintain equipment braking and steering systems in good repair and adjustment.
- Construct axle berms and/or runaway ramps where there are steep grades.
- Train drivers in the use of axle berms and runaway ramps.
- Maintain access to axle berms and runaway ramps at all times.
- Be mindful of the weather as it affects road conditions and visibility.
- Travel at or below posted speeds.
- Provide an area where a functionality check of the brakes can be conducted safely.